



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY GARRISON HEIDELBERG
UNIT 29237
APO AE 09102**

IMEU-HEI-PW-ED

14 Oct 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg

SUBJECT: Army Radon Reduction Program - USAG-Heidelberg Corrective Action Plan

1. Objectives:

- a. Identify structures controlled by the Army that have indoor radon levels greater than 4 pico curies per liter (pCi/l) of air.
- b. Modify every priority 1, 2 and 3 Army-controlled structure with radon levels greater than 4 pCi/l so that the levels are reduced to 4 pCi/l or less.
- c. Identify reduction strategies and procedures.
- d. Raise public awareness of radon issues and educate on simple radon reduction measures.

2. Current Situation:

All Priority I, II and III buildings in the Heidelberg Community have been surveyed for indoor radon. Approx. 85% of the testing was completed during the past six years, the rest since 1989. Testing was done by certified contractors, meeting EPA requirements. Results of short term testing showing values above 4 pCi/L were followed by long term testing. Mitigated buildings are retested approx. every five years. Currently, some 101 buildings have mitigation systems installed. Of these, 96 are located at Patrick Henry Village (Army Family Housing), 4 at Mark-Twain-Village (Army Family Housing and DoDDS ES) and one at Nachrichten Kaserne (Hospital building, basement).

3. Challenges:

- a. Ascertaining that all newly constructed or converted Priority I, II and III structures are surveyed for indoor radon.
- b. Ensuring that occupants of structures with mitigation systems understand their purpose, whom to inform if there is a problem and what minimal maintenance they must perform (changing filters).

13 Oct 2005

- c. Developing a system by which the functionality of the mitigation systems are checked periodically and maintenance work is performed.
- d. Maintaining a comprehensive community-wide radon database.
- e. Raising public awareness of indoor radon issues (levels in their home, risks, mitigation measures).
- f. Obtaining funds required for any type of radon related work in a timely manner.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

a. DPW will, as part of the Board of Directors Meeting's screening process, advise the Environmental Division (ED) of all newly built priority I, II or III structures and of projects to upgrade existing priority 0 structures to priority I, II or III.

b. Army Family Housing will:

- (1) Provide funds for radon testing and mitigation measures
- (2) Coordinate appointments for contractor who perform radon related work in government housing (especially North PHV)
- (3) Furnish (right-to-know) information on radon-related issues to affected housing residents (i.e. ED-developed hand-outs, EPA publications)
- (4) Include in their maintenance contracts the requirement for the contractor to inspect the mechanical/electrical serviceability of the mitigation systems already in place, exchange/cleaning of the filters and, if necessary, resealing of cracks/openings in the basement walls, floors and ceilings (see MFR dtd 14 Jan 05)
- (5) Perform or arrange to have performed cleaning of outside air intake filters. These filters, attached to the air intake pipe not be replaced, but cleaned regularly to allow the mitigation to function properly. These pipes/filters are located outside of the buildings, access is not required.
- (6) Prepare and submit work orders for all AFH structures currently known to have elevated radon levels (above 4 pCi/l). Bldg list has been provided by ED.

c. The Program Manager will:

- (1) Maintain a community-wide radon database

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg
SUBJECT: Heidelberg Radon Reduction Program (Update)

13 Oct 2005

- (2) Respond community-wide to all inquiries regarding radon
- (3) Maintain a list of firms qualified to perform radon related work
- (4) Be aware of the latest developments in the field of radon testing and mitigation
- (5) Advise AFH on all radon related issues
- (6) Inform AFH of funds requirements for radon testing and mitigation
- (7) Keep AFH informed of testing requirements and results
- (8) Develop handouts containing radon information/instruction for AFH residents and provide them to AFH staff
- (9) Keep residents/occupants informed of results of radon testing
- (10) Prepare scopes of work for radon-related service contracts
- (11) Monitor performance of radon-related contracts
- (12) Keep on hand a sufficient number of readily deployable long-term radon monitors
- (13) Initiate long term (minimum of 91 days) testing in all newly constructed or upgraded structures
- (14) Attend radon-related training when offered by Army or host nation sources
- (15) Raise awareness of radon issues community-wide by including the topic in the Introductory Training Course (ITC) and Families Learning About Germany (FLAG) briefings. Sensitize commanders and directors through information provided in quarterly Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) meetings. Inform community members through occasional articles published in the Harold Post newspaper and in Armed Forces Network (AFN) radio announcements.

4. Summary:

All the basic requirements for the Army Radon Reduction Program have been met, providing a solid basis for a viable program. The existing database is comprehensive and up to date and can be maintained at this stage with minimum effort. Cooperation by other DPW divisions is required to ensure that changes based on construction/renovation measures are brought to the attention of the program manager and to establish a better surveillance

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg
SUBJECT: Heidelberg Radon Reduction Program (Update)

13 Oct 2005

program for the existing mitigation systems. This can be implemented in a very cost effective manner by a mere addition to current policy. Continual and detailed information is provided and/or made available to all community personnel.

5. Per e-mail info by IMA-E (Carl Weighman, 21 Sep 05), the requirement for an Army Radon Reduction Program ends with the publication of the revised AR 200-1, which will no longer contain a chapter on radon.

6. Point of contact is the Radon Program Manager at 387-3145, astrid.blades2@us.army.mil



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